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destruction of the documents which, the doctor has collected, for the family would be dishonoured should they ever see the light. The girl has also tried to convert Pascal to her own religious views; hut all in vain. A period of delirious folly ensues, Pascal turns prodigal in his old age, and is at last brought to ruin by a dishonest notary. Then Clotilde and he have to part, and he dies, struck down by heart disease. The young woman survives with a child, his son and hers, who, perhaps, may yet rejuvenate the dwindling race. And we see her nursing her babe and indulging in a thousand hopes, as the curtain at last descends on the history of the Eougon-Macquarts.¹

Such, then, is Zola's great series: one work in twenty volumes, in whose pages appear twelve hundred human

¹ In our summary of the novels we have left the scientific questions on one side. It would be impossible to deal with them adequately here, and those who are curious on the subject must consult "Le Docteur Pascal," from which we venture to quote just one paragraph, which indicates Zola's views in a general way : " We see that human creatures may appear radically different one from another, though they merely typify so many logical modifications of their common ancestors. The trunk explains the branches, and the branches explain the leaves. Although Saccard and Eugene Kougou differ so much in temperament and mode of life, the same impulsion produced the former's ravenous appetites and the latter's sovereign ambition. Angelique, a spotless lily, came from an equivocal creature like Sidonie, for the same influence determines either mysticism or sexual passion according to environment. In the case of Mouret's children the inspiration makes an intelligent man like Octave a millionaire dealer in finery, causes Serge, a "believer, to become a poor priest, while Desiree, a witless creature, develops

into a physically handsome and happy girl. . . . But the
neurosis passes to
Gervaise's children, and Nana sells herself, feigns rebels,
Jacques murders,
and Claude is endowed with a measure of genius; while
Pauline, their cousin-
german, becomes a personification of victorious rectitude, a
battling and self-
sacrificing woman. That is heredity, life itself, which
produces imbeciles,
madmen, criminals, and great men. Certain cells collapse,
others take their
place, and a rascal or a raving lunatic appears instead of a
genius or a mere
honest man. And meantime mankind continues rolling
onward, carrying all
along with it."